

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY OF
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
Committee Reporting Session
January 9, 2022

On Sunday, January 9, 2022, the Episcopal Church of the Ascension held committee meetings and a reporting session, following Sunday services. Committees began to meet at about 12:30 pm, following the Formation Fair, spread out across the campus, meeting in the Parish Hall, the Parlor, the Youth & Outreach Center, the courtyard, and other rooms.

Father Paul called committee leaders to the regular meeting in the Youth & Outreach Center at 1:29 pm for the reporting session. Those attending the reporting session were:

Rector Father Paul Klitzke (via Zoom)	Andrew Bolt
Mother Teresa Terry	Jane Burruss
Senior Warden Allen Myers	Mark Unkenholz
Julie Baker (via Zoom)	Suzan Fenner
Ashley Rector	Jon Dunfee
Jonathan March (via Zoom)	Joan Romanosky
Harry Breda	Jane Taber

Junior Warden Andrew Marshall and Vestry members Laura Warner Gilmer and Shade Badejo were not present. Vestry member Harry Breda continued to perform duties as Clerk of the Vestry.

Father Paul noted the absence of his physical presence, as he joined the meeting via a Zoom conference; he apologized as he had been exposed to Covid earlier in the week. He then provided a few notes for the gathered leaders:

- Given the increase in activity at Ascension, and the number of people attending meetings and events, he informed the committee heads that he would begin to enforce deadlines for bulletins, calendars and other activities.
- He shared that the parish office would be closed on January 17 for the Martin Luther King holiday, and that he would be hosting a Zoom call that evening for staff at dinner.
- For the annual meeting, Vestry would gather on Saturday January 29, to set up the parish hall, and the meeting would be held on January 30.
- There is potential for shifting dates of February and March vestry and committee meetings, based on availability.

With notes completed, we moved to committee reporting.

Ascension Day School (Brett Rector, Board President)

- Brett did not attend and did not report for ADS.

Evangelism Committee (Jane Taber, Chair)

- The committee met in hybrid fashion – some in person, some virtual.
- The primary activity was to plan out usher/greeter training. They discussed the morning of February 26, with contingency plans in place in case of Covid issues. The training is for new ushers and greeters.
- There will be three teams of ushers, and each team will work for a full month on a rotating schedule. She is looking for a “family” team that could work together.
- The Lenten speaker series is being developed – it will be called “40 + 5,” forty days, five speakers over five weeks. The first speaker will be on March 9, starting at 6:30 pm, planning to finish up by 7:15 pm. Invitations have gone out to four speakers, not all Episcopalians. The meetings will be all virtual, via Zoom.
- She shared that she heard that sound levels were troublesome on the YouTube feed – she also expressed thanks for putting up text for the readings on the video feed.

Finance Committee (Jane Burruss)

- There was nothing to report, as final numbers for 2021 have not yet been calculated.

Formation Committee (Joan Romanosky, Chair)

- Joan felt that the Formation Fair went well today, as she was able to share a lot of information with parishioners. She is considering leaving the boards up so that they can be read over the next few weeks.

Liturgy & Music Ministry

- The committee did not meet.

Outbound Committee

- The committee did not meet.

Pastoral Care (Mother Teresa, reporting)

- Training for the new Stephen Ministers will be taking place soon. We are partnering with St. Michaels on the effort, and there will be four Stephen Ministers from each parish.

Radical Hospitality (Suzan Fenner, Chair)

- The committee agreed to postpone the Progressive Dinner, scheduled for January 22.

- The committee discussed helping out for the annual meeting; when the Vestry determines how the meeting will be held, the committee can prepare for snacks and/or breakfast foods.
- Suzan asked that we have a decision on a Shrove Tuesday activity by February 1, to provide ample time for preparation and organization.
- Last, the committee discussed an alternate date for the Progressive Dinner – Suzan suggested April 30 as an alternate date.

Stewardship Committee

- Thanks were offered for calls and cards to those who have pledged.

With there being no further reporting, the meeting was adjourned at 1:57 pm. The Vestry meeting would start in about ten minutes.

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY OF
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
Regular Business Meeting
January 9, 2022

The Vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension held its regular business meeting following committee reporting. Remaining for the Vestry meeting were Father Paul Klitzke, Jonathan March, Julie Baker and Shade Badejo, via Zoom; and Associate Rector Mother Teresa Terry, Treasurer Jane Burruss, Senior Warden Allen Myers, and Vestry Members Andrew Bolt, Ashley Rector and Harry Breda attending in person. Also attending was Treasurer Jane Burruss. Absent from the meeting were Junior Warden Andrew Marshall and Vestry Member Laura Warner Gilmer. Harry Breda also served as Clerk of the Vestry.

The meeting came to order at 2:05 pm.

Devotional

Father Paul read a devotional discussing Epiphany, and what it means to Episcopalians.

Prayer Requests

As a Vestry and as a congregation, we pray for ...

- Jane Burruss's family, as they struggle through a difficult time;
- Carol Brickell and the Brickell family;
- Anabelle Smith;
- The Springer family;
- Curt Gadsen;
- Janet Calhoun;
- Sarah Wainwright;
- Polly Hix;
- Harry's Aunt Dootsie and Uncle Lester;
- Sarah Klitzke and the Klitzke family as they travel back to California;
- All who grieve for the loss of family and friends
- All who have been impacted by Covid, including those who have been sick as well as those who are caring for the sick;
- Doctors, nurses, caregivers, and first responders dealing with those impacted by the pandemic;

Following a moment of silence for centering and prayer, the Vestry read aloud the mission statement of Episcopal Church of the Ascension.

Ordinary Business

Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the December meeting were distributed to the Vestry via email. Allen Myers moved that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Andrew Bolt and approved unanimously.

Financial Reports

- There were no financial reports to distribute as the final numbers for December 2021 and the full calendar year were not yet complete. Jane will share them with the Vestry when they are available.

New and Continuing Business

Annual Meeting 2022 – Discussion and Preparation

- The Vestry considered how to host the annual meeting for 2022, scheduled for January 30, given the current rise of the highly contagious Omicron variant of Covid-19. Two key factors are involved: attendance by parishioners, and voting for Vestry and convention delegates. The goal is to have as many parishioners participate as possible, but also to be as safe as we can be.
- Discussion was centered on in-person and virtual options, as well as a hybrid option which would allow both virtual and in-person participation. After much discussion, it was agreed that the primary focus would be to enhance participation by all.
- It was agreed to host a hybrid annual meeting, with both Zoom and in-person options. The parish hall would be the primary inside space, with outdoor seating if weather permits. All would be able to speak and vote, including those attending virtually.

Reports

Senior Warden – Allen Myers

- Allen shared the Vestry candidates and the convention delegate candidates with the group.
- He shared one note to the next senior warden – that there would have to be a solution to the telecom issue that has plagued him this year.

Associate Rector – Mother Teresa Terry

- She shared that she is officially a canonical resident of the state of Texas.
- The Vestry expressed its thanks to Mother Teresa for “pinch-hitting” for Father Paul today in the wake of his covid-related quarantine.

Rector's Report – Father Paul Klitzke

- While he did not test positive for Covid, Father Paul said he made the decision to stay home and participate virtually out of an abundance of caution. We have acted that way for the entire pandemic and it has served us well, he believes.
- He mentioned during committee reporting that he's eager to get back to calendaring and planning meetings with leaders and office staff. He feels like we've been flying blind for a while and would like to get some structure back in place soon.
- More people are becoming involved in the service, which is a good thing, but we are of course ramping up our efforts there with servers and the youth. This is both a pandemic issue as well as a scheduling issue to be overcome.

Calendar of Events

- January 30 – Annual Parish Meeting
 - The Vestry will meet immediately after the annual meeting.

People to Thank

- Jane Taber, for building out all the packets for children.
- Audry Lee and the Outbound Ministry, for their work in getting the mammogram truck set up – a terrific event.

Father Paul Klitzke offered a closing prayer.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at about 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Breda, Clerk of the Vestry